

POPULATION

CURRENT ESTIMATE

During the first half of the twentieth century, the population of Wilson increased by 553 percent. Over the same period of time the population of the State of North Carolina increased by 115 percent. It is significant to note that highest population growth occurred during the decade immediately following the depression. This is the period when agricultural activities were receiving prominence in the entire nation. During the two following decades, Wilson's population growth has been slow. The growth, however, has been steady and faster than both the County and the State Economic Area Number 8. (Economic Areas are homogeneous areas having similar characteristics. These have been delineated in a study encompassing the whole nation by Donald J. Bogue and Calvin L. Beale. The purpose of this study was to facilitate further study of these areas. North Carolina State Economic Area 8 consists of Edgecombe, Green, Lenoir, Nash, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson Counties). In fact, the population of the area surrounding the City of Wilson registered a decline and the area is still in the process of losing population. The absolute increase in Wilson's population has been from 12,613 in 1930 to 28,753 in 1960.